

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6502

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 5430

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG

SUBJECT: MONTES TRAVELS TO EUROPE AND NAM CONFERENCE;

ARGENTINE TILT TOWARD THIRD WORLD

REF: BUENOS AIRES 5319

SUMMARY: ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR ROMANIA AND VIENNA ON JULY 17 AND WILL ATTEND THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN BELGRADE JULY 25-28. ARGENTINA PLANS ACTIVE ROLE IN NAM CONFERENCE: ARGENTINE FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEMS, NON-INTERVENTION AND NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES WILL BE RAISED. GOA'S INCREASED INTEREST IN THIRD WORLD CONTINUES TO AROUSE DEBATE AMONG LOCAL OBSERVERS. END SUMMARY.

1. ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER OSCAR MONTES LEAVES JULY 17 FOR A EUROPEAN TRIP WHICH WILL TAKE HIM TO ROMANIA JULY 19-21, VIENNA JULY 21-25, AND BELGRADE JULY 25-28. MONTES REPORTEDLY MAY VISIT THE SOVIET UNION FOLLOWING HIS ATTENDANCE AT THE NAM CONFERENCE IN BELGRADE.

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2. MONTES' VISIT TO ROMANIA REPORTEDLY IS AT THE INVITATION OF ROMANIAN PRESIDENT CEAUSECU AND FOLLOWS THE VISIT OF JUNTA MEMBER AND NAVY CINC MASSERA. IN VIENNA, WHERE HE IS TRAVELLING IN A PRIVATE CAPACITY, MONTES WILL PRESIDE AT A MEETING OF ARGENTPNE AMBASSADORS ACCREDITED TO EAST AND

WESTERN EUROPE.

3. MONTES WILL BE ATTENDING THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN BELGRADE WITH A SIZEABLE ARGENTINE DELEGATION, INCLUDING THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S COORDINATOR FOR FOREIGN POLICY CAPTAIN CARLOS LOUGE, AND DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AMBASSADOR JULIO BARBOZA, AMONG OTHERS. MONTES WILL ADDRESS THE SESSION ON JULY 27. ACCORDING TO THE LOCAL PRESS, MONTES WILL RAISE THE BORDER PROBLEM WITH CHILE, THE ISSUE OF SHARED NATURAL RESOURCES OVER WHICH ARGENTINA IS IN CONFLICT WITH BRAZIL ON UPPER PARANA RIVER HYDROELECTRIC POWER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, SOVEREIGNTY CLAIMS IN ANTARCTICA AND THE MALVINAS ISLANDS, AND ARGENTINA'S POSITION THAT THE NAM SHOULD MAINTAIN ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM OTHER POWER BLOCS.

4. THE MATTER OF CUBAN INTERVENTION IN AFRICA IS EXPECTED TO BE RAISED AT THE CONFERENCE, BUT NOT TO RESULT IN AN EXPULSION VOTE AGAINST CUBA. A FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF RECENTLY THAT THE NAM WILL NOT WANT TO SPLIT OVER THE CUBA QUESTION, AND ARGENTINA EXPECTS TO JOIN OTHER NATIONS IN MODERATE CRITICISM OF CUBA RATHER THAN FORMAL CENSURE. MONTES SECONDED THAT VIEW IN A CONFIDENTIAL

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RECENT NEWS CONFERENCE AT WHICH HE SAID A GROUP OF NATIONS, "INCLUDING ARGENTINA AND YUGOSLAVIA, IS DETERMINED TO AVOID IDEOLOGICAL CONFRONTATIONS IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO FAVOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES." MONTES ALSO SAID THAT THE ARGENTPNE PRESENCE AT THE NAM CONFERENCE IS "AN ATTEMPT TO MODERATE THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AND ACHIEVE REAL AND FIRM UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING NATIONS."

5. THE PRESS REPORTED RECENTLY THAT THE DRAFT OF THE CONFERENCE FINAL DECLARATION WILL INCLUDE A CONDEMNATION OF "FOREIGN INTERVENTION WHICH INCLUDES DIRECT OR INDIRECT AGGRESSION, PRESSURES, SUBVERSION AND ORGANIZED DEFAMATION CAMPAIGNS ORIENTED ESPECIALLY TO UNDERMINE THE AUTONOMOUS DEVELOPMENT OF THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES AND DESTABILIZE THEIR GOVERNMENTS."

6. COMMENT: AS DISCUSSED IN REFTTEL, GOA IS MAKING INCREASED OVERTURES TO THE THIRD WORLD, A FOREIGN POLICY SHIFT IN EMPHASIS WHICH IS

ATTRACTING GROWING PUBLIC ATTENTION AT HOME.
TWO MORE EXAMPLES OF THE GROWING ARGENTINE
PRESENCE IN THE THIRD WORLD WERE RECENTLY NOTED
BY LA OPPNION: ARGENTINA WILL OPEN A DIPLOMATIC
MISSION IN BAGHDAD AND A DIPLOMATIC AND ECOECONOMIC
MISSION HEADED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS CHIEF AIR FORCE COMMODORE
RAUL CURA WILL SOON VISIT IRAQ, LIBYA, AND ALGERIA
TO CONCLUDE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH THOSE GOVERNMENTS.

7. A LA OPINION COLUMNIST ALSO DISCUSSED ARGENTINA'S
"NEW" FOREIGN POLICY, WHICH HE SAW AS STEMMING FROM
RENEWED NATIONAL CONFIDENCE AFTER THE SUCCESS OF
THE WORLD CUP. UNDER THE TITLE "SEEKING NEW OPTIONS
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FOR THE BUSINESS OF FOREIGN POLICY," ALFREDO BECERRA
WROTE: "FOR TOO MANY YEARS ARGENTINA LOOKED INWARD,
EGOTISTICALLY PRIDING ITSELF ON THE WONDROUSNESS OF
BUENOS AIRES, WHILE TRYING TO BE THE FAVORED
DAUGHTER OF LONDON, BERLIN, ROME OR WASHINGTON.
TODAY, ANY PETROLEUM COUNTRY, REGARDLESS OF HOW
SMALL, POOR, OR BACKWARD IT MAY BE, IS MORE
IMPORTANT TO THE SUPERPOWERS THAN ARGENTINA.
UNTIL THE SUPERPOWERS RECOGNIZE THEIR ERROR IN
IGNORING ARGENTINA'S IMPORTANCE, ENOUGH TIME WILL

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PASS THAT ARGENTINA CAN DEVELOP OPTIONS WHICH WILL PERMIT IT TO DEVELOP IN THE WORLD IN A MORE SELF-ASSURED, AGILE WAY, WITH LESS VULNERABILITY TO ITS "IMAGE". THE COLUMN GOES ON TO STATE THAT THE US HAS ALREADY MADE UP ITS MIND ON ARGENTINA AND THE ANSWER IS "NO". "SOME COUNTRIES ARE SEEKING TO GET ON THE US BANDWAGON -- BRAZIL, MEXICO AND CARACAS -- AND OTHERS ARE ALSO TRYING TO FOLLOW FOR MOTIVES OF THEIR OWN, INCLUDING SANTIAGO, ASUNCION AND LA PAZ. ARGENTINA, INSTEAD OF FALLING INTO ISOLATIONISM AS A RESULT OF PERPETUAL CRITICISM DUE TO FOREIGN MISUNDERSTANDING, IS CONVERSELY LOOKING OUTWARD TO BUILD MORE PRODUCTIVE AND USEFUL RELATIONS IN THE WORLD."

8. THE BA HERALD'S JAMES NEILSON ON THE OTHER HAND, TOOK GOA FOREIGN POLICY MAKERS TO TASK FOR GOA'S CURRENT FLIRTATION WITH THE THIRD WORLD IN A COLUMN JULY 13. DESCRIBING THEM AS "IMAGINATIVE AMATEURS" WHO TAKE THE COUNTRY "BOBBING UP AND DOWN THE INTERNATIONAL LINE-UP IN A HIGH DISCONCERTING FASHION", NEILSON RIDICULES THE CURRENT POLICY SHIFT TO THE THIRD WORLD AS HAPHAZARD AND ABSURD. "COMPLAINING ABOUT WASHINGTON'S IMPERIALISTIC WAYS DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A SERIOUS FOREIGN POLICY, NOR DOES MAKING OBSCURE

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SPEECHES AT GATHERINGS OF CONTEMPTIBLE GOVERNMENTS OF THE "NON-ALIGNED" MAFIA OR JOINING THE BEGGARS CHORUS OF THE THIRD WORLD. SHUNTING FROM BLOC TO BLOC WILL NOT DO, NEITHER WILL PLAYING FOOTSY WITH BARBAROUS STATES LIKE YUGOSLAVIA JUST BECAUSE WASHINGTON IS ENGAGING IN ONE OF ITS PERIODIC BOUTS OF MORALIZING". ARGENTINA'S ONLY REALLY AUTHENTIC ROLE IS AS A SMALL BUT UPCOMING WESTERN POWER, WHICH SHOULD DEVELOP AS MANY TRADING LINKS WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD AS POSSIBLE AND DO AS MUCH AS A SMALL COUNTRY CAN DO TO MAINTAIN THE POWER OF THE DEMOCRATIC WEST, PRESCRIBES NEILSON.

9. UNFORTUNATELY, NEILSON IS A FOREIGNER WHO WRITES FOR A US-OWNED NEWSPAPER, AND HIS VIEWS WILL BE ACCORDINGLY DISCOUNTED ON THIS SUBJECT.
HIGGINS

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